

His Eminence

Religion

Genocide Subject of Sessions

By TWILA ROLLER
Journal Religion Writer

Two groups whose members have been victims of mass extermination have announced a study on genocide for the next three Sundays and Mondays at Congregation B'Nai Israel, 4401 Indian School NE.

The Armenian Cultural Association of New Mexico and the congregation of the synagogue will sponsor sessions on "The Holocaust of the Jewish People," "The Genocide of the Armenian People," and "The Indian Community."

Sessions will be held on three consecutive Sundays, starting this Sunday, from 10:30 a.m. until noon for children 13 and under, and at 4:45 p.m. Mondays for persons 14 and older.

Rabbi Isaac Celnik said the genocide study transcends particular faiths.

Celnik will also participate in an interfaith service memorializing the 6 million victims of the Holocaust at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, 318 Silver SW. Sophie Garvanian will read a prayer from Armenian Liturgy at the 7:30 p.m. service on Sunday.

An event commemorating the 1915 Massacre of 2 million Armenians by the Turks has been set for 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 24, the anniversary date.

The observance will be held at the Albuquerque Museum in Old Town, where a memorial tree has been planted. Sam Pachanian will be the speaker.

Rita Cook, Armenian cultural president, said a lecture on "The American Genocide in Historical Perspective" is scheduled for Tuesday at 7:45 p.m. at



Journal Photo by Brain Walski

Rabbi Isaac Celnik Holding Torah Genocide Study Transcends Faiths

UNM's International Center. The presentation by Dr. Richard Hovannisian, associate director for Near Eastern Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, will be sponsored by the UNM Department of Philosophy and the American cultural Association.

Hovannisian has published a 75-page bibliography of

materials relating to the deportation, massacres and dispersion of the Armenian people.

The area occupied by ancient Armenia now encompasses Soviet Armenia, one of the U.S.S.R.'s 15 republics, eastern Turkey and northwestern Iran.

Mount Ararat, reputedly the resting place of Noah's

Ark, represents the fatherland to Armenians around the world, Mrs. Cook said. It was the first nation to declare Christianity as a state religion and has the oldest Christian cathedral in existence.

Of the 5.25 million Armenians in the world today, 500,000 live in the United States.